off-shore oil explorations in the country;

(b) is so, what are the names of the oil companies who participated at the meeting; and

(c) what was the nature of discussions held and decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Presentations were made at New Delhi, London and Houston on May 7, 14, and 20, 1986, respectively to the international oil companies for the third round of exploration licensing in the Indian off-shore.

(b) The names of the oil companies who participated in the presentations are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Appendix CXXIX, Annexure No. 40].

(c) Prospects of the offshore blocks put on offer, fiscal regimes and terms and conditions proposed for the contract were explained to the oil companies, who participated.

Setting up hydel power plant in North Bengal

682. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has since a detailed scheme for the setting up of a Rs. 225 crore hydel power plant in North Bengal with Japanese collaboration; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government for the clearance of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received in Central Electricity Authority. However, the Teesta Canal Fall Hydro-electric Project (67.5 MW) in West Bengal, costing Rs. 80.7 crores, was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in September, 1985 and was posed for OECF loan assistance during 1986-87. The Government of Japan have pledged a loan assistance of Yen 8.025 billion for this Project.

Setting up of Synthetic Oil Plants

683. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had examined any proposal to set up plants for production of synthetic oil from coal;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for which the proposal was later abandoned;

(c) whether Government would review the earlier decision in the light of the report of Sir J. C. Ghosh Committee of 1953; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) In 1956 and in 1977 two committees, namely, the J. C. Ghosh Committee and the Chakravarty Panel examined the question of production of liquid fuels from coal. As the economics of such conversion was found to be unfavourable, the proposals were not taken up for implementation. In 1984 the Sidhu Committee recommended conversion of coal to geseous and liquid fuels. Coal samples were got tested for their suitability for gasification. A pre-feasibility study report on conversion of coal to oil on a commercial scale was prepared, under the auspices of UNDP, UNIDO and Coal India Ltd. The report has examined a suitable technology for coal to oil Conversion and economics of a plant to manufacture 1 million tonnes of liquid products per

year. It can be said that, at present, the production of liquid fuels from coal in India is not favourable on a commercial scale.

L.P.G. connections

684. DR. (MOHD.) HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons on the waiting list for the grant of LPG Connections in the country as on June 1986; and

(b) the number of LPG Connections provided during the first half year of 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) 36.12 lakhs.

(b) 8.70 lakhs.

Supply of white printing paper for text books

685. SHRI ALADI ARUNA ALIAS V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any arrangement for supply of white printing paper at the concessional rates for printing of text books and for manufacture of exercise books;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and how much paper was supplied under this arrangement during the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) what are the regulations, if any, prescribed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The supply of white printing paper to the education sector is being regulated through the mechanism of Paper (Regulation of Production) Order, 1978 and Paper (Control) Order, 1979. In terms of these orders, the paper mills are required to produce white printing paper to the extent prescribed and supply it to the various text book and exercise book manufacturers etc. according to the direction of Government at the ex-factory price as fixed from time to time. The present ex-factory price is Rs. 7,200 per tonne.

The supplies made upto 31.3.1986 by the paper mills against allocations in the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Supplies (in tonnes)
	(Estimated)
1983-84	88,636
1984-85	97,173
1985-86	46,542

Supplies against allocations are still continuing.

Appointment of Chief Justices of Bombay and Allahabad High Courts

686. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the Government's policy to have Chief Justices of High Courts from outside the jurisdiction of respective High Courts;

(b) Whether exceptions have been made in the matter of appointment of Chief Justices of Bombay and Allahabad High Courts recently; and

(c) what are the reasons for such a departure from the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The recent appointment of Chief Justices of the Bombay and